

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00303 181433Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /081 W

-----181440 095173 /47

R 181140Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8275

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0303

STATE PLEASE PASS TO ALL OAU CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, XA

SUBJECT: GOCAE VIEWS ON RHODESIAN SITUATION

1. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH EMPEROR BOKASSA ON FEBRUARY 16 AND IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION THE SAME DAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOKODOPO, I WAS ABLE TO GET GOCAE'S VIEWS ON CURRENT RHODESIAN SITUATION AND RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT BOTH DEPLORED AND CURRENT SITUATION AND THE DIVISIONS AMONG RHODESIAN POLITICAL GROUPS. BOKASSA IN PARTICULAR WAS OUTSPOKENLY CRITICAL OF AFRICAN PERFORMANCE TO DATE AND ATTRIBUTED THE FAILURE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO A LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN DELEGATIONS. HE SAID HE WAS FEARFUL THAT THE RHODESIAN SITUATION WOULD BE A REPLAY OF ANGOLA, WITH SOVIET DOMINATED ELEMENTS COMING OUT ON TOP. HE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS BEGUN BY FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER. BOTH

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HE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WELCOMED OUR UNDERTAKING TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT AND TO PUT PRESSURE ON SMITH REGIME. BOKASSA ADDED, THAT AFRICAN STATES WOULD HAVE TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO GET VARIOUS RHODESIAN FACTIONS WORKING TOGETHER.

2. COMMENT: INsofar AS USG EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A

SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS CONCERNED WE CAN
COUNT ON BOKASSA'S SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT. HOWEVER, HE
FEELS HE WAS BADLY BURNED OVER ANGOLA IN 1975 AND
1976 BY GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF AFRICAN
MAJORITY POSITIONS, AND I DO NOT THINK HE WILL PLAY
AN ACTIVE PUBLIC ROLE UNLESS WE SPECIFICALLY ASK HIM TO DO
SO. HE IS UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION FOR THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT, WHICH HE SEES AS SOVIET DOMINATED, UNLESS
THAT APPEARS TO BE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS AFRICAN POSITION
IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD GRUDGINGLY GO ALONG.
QUAINTON

NOTE BY OC/T: BANGUI 0303 NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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NNN

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Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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